

Minutes of the Apr 9, 2009 HP/FH Committee Meeting

Attendance

Present:

Ellen Kosmer (EK), Claude Tellier (CT), Nancy Gregg (NG) Chair Walter Wolnik (WW), Chris Hoffmann (CH) Recording Secretary), Roy Rosenblatt (RR) Staff

Absent:

Jean Haggerty (JH), Flo Stern (FS)

Others

None

Actions:

Called to order at 9:20am

Discussion:

Pomeroy Lane: The committee discussed the possibility of the town purchasing and building housing on Pomeroy Lane. Mr Rosenblatt mentioned that there were an endangered species of turtle on the lot that would have to be studied taken into account.

Interfaith Housing Group: The group who made Village Park have \$500,000 left over from their sale. They'd like to use this for some permanent housing. There is \$450,000 in a CDBG that may be able to be used in conjunction with this.

Distribution of Lawsuit Escrow: There is about \$115,000 from an escrow account that was created while a lawsuit on rent was in progress. Since not all the tenants that were eligible to receive a refund can be found, the courts have allowed this money to be released to the town for use for emergency fuel assistance or emergency housing. Mr Rosenblatt was asked to determine a plan for use of the money. He is hoping it can be partially used to supplant a \$30,000 CDBG grant, freeing up \$30,000 for social services.

CPA: Ms Kosmer reported that the state match has been reduced to 29% from 35%. The estimated minimum amount that will need to go to affordable housing is \$47,200. Habitat had already had \$30,000 approved. Originally this was going in addition to the \$47,000, but after this cut they have now decided to take the Habitat money from that, leaving \$17,200.

Rent to Buy: There was discussion about the feasibility of rent-to-buy plans. Mr Wolnik wanted to know if there examples in MA. Mr Rosenblatt said the information we had heard so far suggested this was a longshot.

Tasks:

None.

Next meeting:

May 7, 2009 at 9am, First Floor Mtg Room

Adjournment

Voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:10am. EK/CT

Submitted By

Chris Hoffmann